

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 106599

R 091003Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1456

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANGES

1. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS FOLLOWING SHIFTS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY
LINE UP.

VICE MINISTER TOGO WILL SUCCEED AMB YASUKAWA IN WASHINGTON AFTER THE
EMPEROR'S TRIP IN OCTOBER. AMB YASUKAWA WILL RETIRE AND TOGO WILL BE
SUCCEDED IN TOKYO BY SHOJI SATO, PRESENTLY AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN.

2. YASUKE NAKAE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, WILL
SUCCEED MASUO TAKASHIMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU

.
KIYOAKI KIKUCHI, CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BUREAU, WILL TAKE PLACE OF YASUE KATORI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
ECONOMIC COOPERATIONVIFONVK KATORI WILL BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO
AUSTRIA.

3. YASHIO OKAWARA, DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATIO, WILL BE
REPLACED BY NOBUO MATSUNAGA, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
TREATIES
BUREAU. LIKE TOGO APPOINTMENT, THIS CHANGE REPORTEDLY WILL OCCUR
AFTER EMPEROR'S TRIP TO U.S. OKAWARA'S ONWARD ASSIGNMENT UNKNOWN. IN
ADDITION, FONOFF SOURCES REPORT THAT MORIYUKI MOTONO, ASSISTANT VICE
MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION WILL REPLACE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU MIZUO KURODA, WHO WILL BE GIVEN AN
AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT.

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4. COMMENT. PROSPECTIVE NEW VICE MINISTER SATO HAS CORRIDOR REPUTATION IN FONOFF AS TOP FLIGHT PROFESSIONAL WITH BACKGROUND IN TREATIES BUREAU AND FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. HE REPORTEDLY PLAYS EXCELLENT BRIDGE. MATSUNAGA, REPORTED TO BE NEW DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION, IS CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF SATO WITH SIMILAR BACKGROUND. BOTH NAKAE AND KIKUCHI ARE WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY AS EXPERT AND FORTHCOMING CONTACTS.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO09207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750237-0075
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750771/aaaaclog.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANGES
TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, (TOGO), (YASUKAWA), (KIYOAKI KIKUCHI), (KATORI), (YASHIO OKAWARA), (NOBUO MATSUNAGA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006